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Recommended Citation

Unknown, Author, "Solon Issues New Plea For Ousting of Silver" (1964). *Clippings*. 198.
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Solon Issues New Plea For Ousting Of Silver

CL 3/28/64

Sen. Corbett Patridge of Schlater Friday issued a second plea for the Mississippi Legislature to take action against a controversial University of Mississippi professor who has been openly critical of state racial policies.

He questioned whether Dr. James Silver, who has served on the Ole Miss history staff for 28 years, is a card-carrying communist.

Patridge asked lawmakers to direct the university chancellor and the State College Board to "drastically reduce the salary and duties of Dr. Silver and stifle his degrading activities."

He said the future of the state depends on immediate action against Silver, who has criticized Mississippi segregation policies during speeches at college campuses in several states.

COMPLACENTLY

"If the chancellor and the board do not act in relation to Dr. Silver," he said, "then I say let us... assume the responsibility... and do the job, and do it well."

Patridge said, "...we sit complacently by and let a person tread the length and breadth of our great nation deceitfully and cowardly expanding the subject of racial hate, calling our people backward, ignorant and with a closed society."

He said copies of Silver's speeches, "wherein he bites the

very hands of the taxpayers of this great state that feeds him," could be secured from the Southern Regional Council of Atlanta.

Patridge said the council is "a known, organized communist party brought into being... to destroy this great nation."

In a lengthy prepared statement he read to the Senate, Patridge asked: "Has anyone ever asked Silver if he is carrying a communist card in his billfold, purchased with Mississippi taxpayers' money."

'SEWER OF SOCIETY'

"Dr. Silver wants to be placed in the very sewer of society. Then I say let's place him there — now and for ever. But let's do it now. If there be one man who is opposed to this procedure let him come forward now and stand beside Dr. Silver."

The remark drew applause from the floor.

Patridge said he had been told "this is exactly what Dr. Silver Wants us to do. If we fire him, he will get national fame."

"I say then, it is better that he get national fame than for us to receive social death. I am satisfied to go to my grave as a true and tried — yet unknown — Mississippian, than for my picture to be in the minds of surviving generations alongside such men as Dr. Silver and Benedict Arnold."

Patridge called several weeks

ago for Silver's ouster, and the plea was echoed this week in the House by Rep. Malcolm Mabry of Coahoma County.